

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A support assembly for an item of furniture, ~~which~~ the support assembly comprising includes:

an elongated support structure for connection at an operatively upper end thereof to an upper portion of an item of furniture, the support structure having a first pair of feet at or adjacent an operatively lower end thereof;

an elongated guide formation fast with the support structure and extending lengthwise relative to the support structure;

a displaceable support member ~~which has~~ including a second pair of feet at or adjacent an operatively lower end thereof, the displaceable support member being arranged relative to the support structure so that a line drawn between the feet of the first pair is transverse to a line drawn between the feet of the second pair, the displaceable support member also being provided with an elongated guided formation complementary to and longitudinally slidably engaged with the guide formation, so that the displaceable support member is slidably displaceable along a rectilinear guide path which is transverse to the lines drawn between both the pairs of feet, with one of the guide formation and the guided formation being in the form of a guide pin, the other one of the guide formation and the guided formation being in the form of a housing defining a guide passage within which the guide pin is longitudinally slidably received, the housing being constructed such that a cross-sectional area of the guide passage is adjustable, to permit dimensioning of the guide passage relative to the guide pin such that automatic frictional engagement of the guide pin with walls of the housing defining the guide passage occurs in response to pivoting of the displaceable support member about a pivot axis which is transverse to the displaceable

support member's guide path, to anchor the displaceable support member frictionally against sliding displacement relative to the support structure;

wherein the housing is provided with a longitudinally extending slit and with an adjustment arrangement for adjusting the width of the slit, to permit said adjustability of the cross-sectional area of the guide passage;

wherein the adjustment arrangement comprises two passage defining formations and a bolt-and-nut assembly, one passage defining formation being located on each side of the slit, the passages defined by the formations being substantially aligned and extending transverse relative to a longitudinal axis of the guide passage, with the bolt of the assembly being received in and extending through the passages, such that the passage defining formations are held captive between the head of the bolt and the nut of the assembly, and adjustment of the width of the slit is effected by threading of the nut on the bolt;

wherein the guide passage is of circular cross-section, the guide pin being circular cylindrical;

wherein the guide formation is constituted by the guide pin, the guide pin projecting operatively downwardly from the operatively lower end of the support structure, and the guided formation being constituted by the guide passage defined by the housing, with the housing being centrally located with respect to the displaceable support member; and

wherein the support structure comprises an elongated operatively upright post and a spider formation connected to an operatively lower end of the post, the spider formation comprising four radially outwardly projecting spokes which are equiangularly spaced about a longitudinal axis of the post, each spoke being channel-shaped and opening operatively downwardly, with the guide pin engaging the spider formation and projecting centrally operatively downwardly therefrom.

Claims 2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 6, ~~in which one~~ wherein a first pair of aligned spokes is provided with the first pair of feet, the feet of the first pair respectively being provided at ends of the spokes of said one pair of spokes.

8. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 7, ~~in which~~ wherein the displaceable support member comprises an arm which is received in the channel defined by ~~the other~~ a second pair of aligned spokes and extending lengthwise therealong, the feet of the second pair of feet respectively being provided at the ends of the arm.

9. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 8, ~~in which~~ wherein the arm and the housing are integrally formed.

10. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 9, ~~which~~ includes further comprising at least one urging member urging the arm operatively downwardly away from the support structure.

11. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 10, ~~which~~ includes further comprising two urging members which are equally spaced on opposite sides of the guide formation, each urging member being in the form of a compressed spring located in the channel defined by said other pair of spokes and acting between the spokes and the arm.

12. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 6, ~~which includes~~ further comprising a securing formation fast with an operatively lower end of the guide pin, which securing formation together with the spider formation holds the housing captive on the guide pin.

13. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 1 ~~in which~~ wherein the feet of the second pair are spaced at equal distances from a longitudinal axis of the guide formation.

14. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 13, ~~in which~~ wherein the feet of the first pair are spaced the same distance from a longitudinal axis of the guide formation as the feet of the second pair are spaced from the longitudinal axis of the guide formation.

15. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the line drawn between the first pair of feet and the line drawn between the second pair of feet are at right angles to each other.

16. (Currently amended) The support assembly as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which includes~~ further comprising sealing means sealing the guide pin off from the environment.

17. (Currently amended) A self-stabilizing arrangement for an item of furniture, ~~which the arrangement comprising includes:~~

an elongated first support component having at each end a foot

projecting in the same direction;

an elongated guide formation fast with the first support component;

and

an elongated second support component having at each end a foot projecting in the same direction as the feet of the first support component, the second support component including an elongated guided formation complementary to and longitudinally slidably engaged with the guide formation, one of the guide formation and the guided formation being in the form of a guide pin, the other one of the guide formation and the guided formation being in the form of a guide passage defined by a housing fast with the associated one of the first and the second support components, within which guide passage the guide pin is longitudinally slidably received, such that the second support component is slidably displaceable relative to the first support component, with the housing being constructed such that a cross-sectional area of the guide passage is adjustable;

wherein the housing is provided with a longitudinally extending slit and with an adjustment arrangement for adjusting the width of the slit, to permit said adjustability of the cross-sectional area of the guide passage;

wherein the adjustment arrangement comprises two passage defining formations and a bolt-and-nut assembly, one passage defining formation being located on each side of the slit, the passages defined by the formations being substantially aligned and extending transverse to a longitudinal axis of the guide passage, with the bolt of the assembly being received in and extending through the passages, such that the passage defining formations are held captive between the head of the bolt and the nut of the assembly, and adjustment of the width of the slit is effected by threading of the nut on the bolt;

wherein the guide formation is constituted by the guide pin, the guide pin being

centrally fast with the first support component and projecting in the same direction as the feet,  
the guided formation being constituted by the guide passage defined by the housing, the  
housing being integrally formed with and centrally located with respect to the second support  
component;

wherein the first support component and the second support component are  
orthogonal;

wherein the self-stabilizing arrangement includes a locating arrangement, the locating  
arrangement keeping the first and the second support components in a predetermined relative  
configuration; and

wherein the locating arrangement includes a pair of longitudinally aligned spokes fast  
with the first support component and projecting radially outwardly therefrom, such that the  
spokes and the first support component are orthogonal, the spokes being shaped to define a  
locating channel opening in the same direction as the direction in which the feet and the pin  
project, in which locating channel the second support component is located.

Claims 18-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended)      The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, in  
~~which~~ wherein the guide formation and the guided formation are shaped and dimensioned  
such that there is limited clearance, which clearance is adjustable on account of the  
adjustability of the cross-sectional area of the guide passage, between the guide pin and a wall  
of the housing defining the guide passage, so that automatic frictional locking of the second  
support component relative to the first support component occurs when a nett moment about  
an axis transverse to a longitudinal axis of the guide pin is exerted on the second support

component.

25. (Currently amended) The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, ~~which includes~~ further comprising at least one urging member urging the second support component away from the first support component in the same direction in which the feet project.

26. (Currently amended) The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 23, ~~which includes~~ further comprising two urging members which are equally spaced on opposite sides of the guide formation, each urging member being in the form of a compressed spring located in the channel defined by said other pair of spokes and acting between the spokes and the second support component.

27. (Currently amended) The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, ~~which includes~~ further comprising a securing formation for securing it, in use, to a support structure of an item of furniture.

28. (Currently amended) The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, ~~which includes~~ further comprising sealing means sealing the guide pin off from the environment.

29. (Currently amended) The self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, ~~which includes~~ further comprising a securing formation fast with the guide pin, which securing formation serves to hold the guided formation captive on the guide pin.

30. (Previously presented) An item of furniture which includes a support assembly as

claimed Claim 1, and an upper portion of an item of furniture mounted on the support assembly.

31. (Previously presented)                      The item of furniture as claimed in Claim 30, which is a table, the upper portion of the item of furniture being a table top.

32. (Previously presented)                      The item of furniture as claimed in Claim 32, which is a stool or a chair, the upper portion of the item of furniture being a seat portion of the stool or chair.

33. (Previously presented)    An item of furniture which includes a self-stabilizing arrangement as claimed in Claim 17, and an upper portion of an item of furniture fast with the first support component thereof.

34. (Previously presented)                      An item of furniture as claimed in Claim 33, which is a table, the upper portion of the item of furniture being a table top.

35. (Previously presented)                      An item of furniture as claimed in Claim 34, which is a stool or a chair, the upper portion of the item of furniture being a seat portion of the stool or chair.

Claims 36 - 38. (Canceled)